THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

# MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

"*Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man*" (LUKE 21: 36).

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## A CONVENTION OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS.

(*Concluded from page 583*).

Peter M. Hixson: "A peculiar case has come to my notice. It is that of a lady who was excommunicated from the Church once, but returned. She is a faithful attendant at meetings, and she pays her tithing, but she wants to be excommunicated again; what is to be done in such a case?"

President Hyrum M. Smith: "Try to find out what her trouble is, and help her to remove it. Nurse her along. There must be some good in her, since she comes to the meetings and tries to do her duty in other respects."

James Gunn McKay: "Occasionally a couple will apply for baptism. They are converted; but they are in this position that they have been living together as husband and wife without a marriage ceremony. They may have been faithful toward each other, and may be recognized, by their friends, as married. Would you baptize them?"

President Hyrum M. Smith: "The Church recognizes the marriage vows made in the various churches, or civil offices, in accordance with the law of the land. Those who are living together without being married, are living out of wedlock. They should be taught that they must be married in accordance with the law. We do not want the class referred to, in the Church, as members."

George Brooks, Jr.: "Some women are practically widows, although they have never had a divorce. Their husbands have left them, and are, perhaps, living with other women. Can such women be baptized, if they apply for baptism?"

President Hyrum M. Smith: "They are in an unfortunate position, because, according to the rule of the Church, we cannot

baptize a wife without the consent of her husband, or against his wishes."

Israel C. Barlow: "I know of a case. The husband has left his wife entirely, and she is, to all intents and purposes, the head of the house. Would it be improper to baptize her?"

John D. Hooper: "There is a lady who has for many years been devoted to the Church. Her husband is in South America, and, although he has not for years contributed a penny toward her maintenance, he refuses to give his consent to her baptism. She is becoming discouraged, because she cannot become a member of the Church, and it seems that she cannot obtain a divorce, and by that means be free from the yoke."

President Hyrum M. Smith: "I am sorry that we have had to answer her that we cannot violate the rule of the Church, but I am satisfied that the Lord will open up the way for her in His own due time."

Parley M. Condie: "In our country a woman in that condition would be considered abandoned, and would be the head of the house."

Peter M. Hixson: "A girl, fifteen years of age, asks for baptism. Her aunt is her guardian. Is her consent sufficient?"

President Hyrum M. Smith: "If the aunt is her legal guardian, her consent is all that is needed."

Elder J. M. Sjodahl was called upon to address the convention. He said, in part:

This is indeed a festival. In every happy family there are occasions of joy and gladness which old and young long remember. There are Christmas celebrations and birthday parties, etc. Our heavenly Father also prepares such "times of refreshing" for His children. This is one of them. When the Prophet Elijah, fleeing from the wrath of Jezebel, weary of life, prayed for death, the angel of the Lord prepared a meal for him, and when he had feasted on that God-given food, he had strength enough to walk for forty days and forty nights, and to take up his labor anew. So we have been made strong by the spiritual food God has set before us, and we are prepared to continue our labors with new determination.

The speaker said he was thankful for the privilege he had had of coming into the British mission and associating with President Hyrum M. Smith and the elders who had labored under his direction. He had learned to love and respect President Smith as a servant of the Lord, a wise counselor, and a true friend. He was thankful for the privilege of laboring, for some time, at least, under the direction of President George F. Richards. He had not before had the privilege of a nearer acquaintance with President Richards, but he had known his beloved father, Franklin D. Richards, quite well. Elder Sjodahl said:

"I came to Utah in 1886. At that time many of the Church leaders deemed it wise to leave the Valleys of the Mountains, because of the persecution that raged, and we did not often see them at our public gatherings. Franklin D. Richards was the first apostle I ever saw. He attended a conference in the Sanpete Stake, where I then lived, and I met him on that occasion. Like many others, I had an idea that an apostle ought to look different from other men, and I felt rather disappointed. But when I heard him speak, I *knew* that I was under the voice and influence of an apostle of our Lord. I remember his discourse yet. He began with these words: 'You call me an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. As such I ought to know something, and be able to tell you what I know about my Master.' And then he went on to tell about the life of our Savior, His death, and the plan of salvation. It was a wonderful discourse. Since then I met Franklin D. Richards many times, and learned to love him for his genuine worth, and from all I have heard of President George F. Richards, I can say—if you will pardon the expression—that the apple has not fallen far from the tree."

The speaker said he was thankful for the reports he had listened to. He was struck with the sincerity and ability of the elders, and noticed that each had his own personality, his own individuality and characteristics. All these could be used in the Lord's service, no matter how diversified they may be, provided we will sanctify them to His service.

Referring to the *Millennial Star*, the speaker said he was thankful for the favorable reports made. He would add this, "The *Star* is your *Star*. You can help to make it interesting by sending in news items from the mission field, relating to the experiences of the saints, cases of remarkable healings, answers to prayer, etc."

Referring to the conditions prevailing in the world, the speaker said that the elders are but a small army confronted by the vast hosts of the adversary; but they are not satisfied with entrenching themselves and holding their own. They want to advance. They are "heralds" of the Lord, whose duty it is to proclaim the gospel with a loud voice. In the gospel they have the only remedy there is against all the ills that afflict the world. There is suffering from poverty, from drunkenness, from sin and iniquity, and most of the evils of the world can be traced to militarism as the root of them. The gospel offers the remedy. It teaches us the principles of the United Order, which is the order of heaven, where all are equal. It gives to us the mission to proclaim peace, and lift up a standard of peace to all nations. In the gospel we are taught that the New Jerusalem is to be a land of refuge for all who do not want to take up arms against their fellowmen. Here, then, is God's remedy against the evils of the world. The gospel is a power of salvation from sin, and all the consequences of sin.

President Hyrum M. Smith next addressed the convention. He said he had listened with a great deal of interest to the statements made by the brethren. It was natural to bring to view the unfavorable conditions, and to dwell on the difficult problems. To some it might appear that these predominated, but that is not the case. Righteousness, progress, integrity, and a desire to do good—these are the predominant features in the mission. There are a few who are indifferent, and there are some apostates; but the Latter-day Saints are true saints, here as elsewhere. A few elders have been indiscreet, and hard to handle, but they are the exception. Many have come into the field mere boys, and it is remarkable how quickly they have developed and become men. The saints have learned to love them, and the enemies to fear them because of their ability to defend the truth. Only a very few have left the mission in disgrace. But this is the proper place in which to discuss difficulties, with a view to overcoming them.

Referring to the question of ordaining members to the Priesthood, President Smith said that every local man should be developed, if possible, from boyhood, to become active in the Church and in the Priesthood, and to be a preacher of the gospel. One of the elders said that they had both hot and cold members in his conference. That is a good condition, because we know where they stand. It is the lukewarm that the Lord will "spue out of his mouth."

Speaking of defective records, President Smith said there had been such, because we have had many clerks, some of whom have been in the office only for a short time. They have received an incomplete record, and have not taken time to complete it. Sometimes new clerks are appointed whose methods are different from those of their predecessors. Such difficulties all will have to deal with. The records should all be complete and legible. Abbreviations should not be used except such as are in common use, and are understood by all. The records are very important. He hoped they would do their best to keep the books as they ought to be.

Excommunication from the Church, the speaker further said, is a terrible thing. "Woe unto him who is cut off from my Church!" That measure should be taken only as a last resort. But when a member has apostatized, and is denying the faith, and has become an enemy of the Church, the time has come when action must be taken. You can only excommunicate such members, and then a record should be kept showing why and when it was done. Sometimes we have had to take action against persons living in sin. The Lord will cast out such, and we cannot afford to keep them, unless they repent. It is an unpleasant duty, but it must be done. Those who have the word "apostate" opposite their names in the Church records should be labored with, and, if it is found that they are in that condition and not willing to repent, they should be cut off.

The speaker then advised the elders to see that the Church works are in the homes of the saints. Many members, he said, cannot now have the elders visiting them as often, or as regularly, as formerly; but they can have the Church works, and read them, and thus be under the influence and guidance of the Spirit of the Lord.

One of the elders had asked for a remedy for low spirituality. You can, President Smith said, lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink. That is a true saying; but it is also true that you do not need to compel a thirsty horse to drink. When he needs water, he takes it because he relishes it. That is so with the children of men and the gospel. Those who are in need of it, will accept it gladly. The gospel seed falls in many kinds of soil. Some seeds fall on stony ground, some on the wayside, some among thorns, and some in good soil. These grow up and bring forth fruit. It will always be that way. We cannot force the gospel upon any man. "If he will not respond to your efforts to raise his spirituality, I know not how you can help him; nor are we responsible for his condition, if we do our duty, but can leave it in the hands of the Lord. When the people long for the elders and desire to hear their testimony, they are 'good soil,' and that is the general condition among the saints."

President Smith then emphasized the necessity of disseminating the gospel as far as possible. All the time, he said, should not be given to teaching the members. Our duty is to lift up our voice in the world, proclaiming the gospel message and warning all men everywhere. And we need not go to the back doors of the homes, either. Our work is in the full daylight, visible to all men. The gospel is good enough for the front doors of palaces as well as cottages.

Taking up the suggestion that had been made, that the conference presidents should report to the mission president any case of wrong-doing, or rebellion, on the part of elders laboring under their direction, the speaker said it was their duty to do so. If they failed, they would be responsible for any mischief that might be done, and perhaps for the downfall of the elder. The conference presidents, he continued, ought to be the presidents of all the conference, and not merely of a part, or of personal friends. If we are not entirely impartial, some will like us, and some will not.

Taking up another line of thought, President Smith said that all who are called to do any work in the Church should be set apart under the hands of the Priesthood. There is an inspiration in this. A blessing can never hurt anybody, but it will strengthen those who receive it. President Smith closed as follows:

"And now, brethren, go forward, in the spirit and magnitude of your calling, to speak in the name of God and administer in the ordinances that the Savior instituted, in order that the saints may be blessed and the enemy tremble in your presence, as the men of

God. May you be blessed in your work! Listen to the counsel of the mission president. I have enjoyed your presence, your acquaintance. God bless you and be with you forever, and may He save you and those in the midst of whom you are laboring!"

President George F. Richards was the last speaker of the convention. He said he felt that a very great obstacle confronting him in coming to succeed President Smith had been removed by the happy thought of the mission president to call the conference presidents together and give him an opportunity to come in contact with the work immediately. "I am glad to meet you and become acquainted with you. Let me say that you who have labored faithfully under the direction of President Smith have a 'friend at court' in him. Your work will never grow dim in his remembrance. We are not aspiring for offices; and yet it is a great blessing to be given opportunities to labor and to preside in the various positions in the Church. In your various stakes names will be presented when vacancies are to be filled, and your names will come before the Twelve. Then President Smith will say, 'I know such and such a man. He is worthy."

The speaker then expressed his full endorsement of the remarks made by President Smith. He has spoken, President Richards said, from three years' experience in this field. "I most heartily endorse the answers to the questions, and the instructions given. They are proper. Remember them and put them into practice."

President Richards said he would endorse the remarks of Elder J. M. Sjodahl about the *Millennial Star*, and the suggestions made in that connection; also what Elder John E. Cottam had said. He hoped to become acquainted with the work in all its details. He had seen, he said, men called to important positions rise to new ideals and responsibilities, and that was as it ought to be. All should not follow the same rut, but develop. He had heard reports of the work done here, which were equal to anything he had ever heard, as, for instance, the report by President McKay in London, and President Robinson in the Leeds conference.

Referring to the inquiries made in the London conference, the speaker said that such inquiries always stimulate further effort. The Lord had placed teachers in the Church for the very purpose of inquiring of the members as to how well they are performing their duties, and when such inquiries are made, that encourages them to further effort, for everyone likes to succeed, particularly when somebody takes an interest in his success. I have thought that I would like to have a talk with all of you. I shall want to know what your conduct is. Somebody will look after me, and I will look after you, and you will watch over the elders laboring under your direction.

President Richards said he was glad to see that the elders had opened their notebooks and jotted down that which they wanted

to remember. This was a good habit. Many good things we hear pass out of our recollection; but we can bring them back again when we have our notes to refer to. The speaker illustrated the point he wanted to make by relating an anecdote of a good lady who said she had enjoyed a meeting she had attended, immensely. Asked what had been said at the meeting, she could give no information whatever. She did not know the name of the speaker; she did not remember the subject of his discourse, but she knew that it was excellent. "I thought to myself," President Richards said, "when you took up your notebooks, these brethren are going to get something besides the impression that it was a good meeting."

Referring to the loaning of the *Millennial Star* to investigators, he said this is a good work, and the thought had come to him that it would be well for the elders to loan out other Church works, including the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants. President Smith had read to us a list of good books and tracts. Why not have the list printed? The elders could then distribute copies of the list to inquirers, and tell them that any of those books they wanted to read would be loaned to them. Most families would, perhaps, be glad to read the books, if furnished them in this way.

The question has been asked, How are we going to overcome the low grade of spirituality? The speaker had seen many who, as long as they held an office did their duties fairly well, but when they were released and a change was effected, they ceased their activity; those who had pleaded with others to do their duty, had to be pleaded with themselves. Hence the necessity of giving everybody a chance to do something. That develops their individuality. He had seen rough boys placed in responsible positions, where they had developed in a religious sense and become very active. If we, from Utah, the speaker continued, are doing all the work, there will be nothing for the local brethren to do. As Elder McKay has said, we ought to supervise the work, and let the local brethren do all they can. It is not always the time we take up, or the number of words we utter, that counts, but the way in which we speak. President Richards had found in the various mission fields he had visited, that the local brethren are well versed in the principles of the gospel. We should, as has been said, take care of the saints, but also carry the gospel to the strangers.

President Richards said he had heard of missionaries who have a time fixed in their minds when they would be released, and when that time was drawing near, they would slacken their efforts, as shown by their reports. Let us not feel that way, he said. Let us feel that each succeeding month should be better than the preceding, until the release comes. We will be remembered by the work and spirit of the last part of our mission. Let us remember that an idler has no place in the kingdom of God.

(*Continued on page 601.*)

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1916.

EDITORIAL.

## ORGANIZED AND INDIVIDUAL WORK NEEDED.

By reason of present war conditions in Europe, and the hazard of sea travel, but few elders are being called from Zion to do missionary work in this land. Also, those elders now in the field, of necessity, will be released to return home as their missions are completed; thus the corps of missionaries is becoming more and more depleted. There is also a possibility that all the missionaries will be withdrawn at some future time. This, however, is scarcely probable with reference to the whole mission. These conditions suggest the thought that the local brethren and sisters should be so thoroughly organized for doing missionary and other religious work that, in the event of a depleted missionary corps, the work in the various branches, conferences, and missions would continue with as little interruption as possible.

The saints should learn this great truth, that every one who has heard and received the gospel is under obligation, by commandment from the Lord, to preach it to others. "And it becometh every man who has been warned to warn his neighbor. Therefore they are left without excuse, and their sins are upon their own heads" (Doc. and Cov. 88: 81, 82). Why should not the local brethren and sisters have with them always a few tracts to distribute where likely to be read; and why not engage their associates and the stranger in conversation upon gospel themes? In this way the saints would not only be discharging themselves of a religious duty and be a blessing to their fellowmen, but they would be undergoing a process of faith development which would increase their efficiency as advocates and defenders of the truth and deepen their love for the gospel, for the Lord, and for mankind generally.

True happiness consists largely in service to fellowmen, and this kind is of the highest type. We should not wait to be asked, nor to be commanded, but have some initiative of our own. "For behold it is not meet that I should command in all things, for he that is compelled in all things, the same is a slothful and not a wise servant; wherefore he receiveth no reward. Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness: for the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good, they shall in no wise lose their

reward. But he that doeth not anything until he is commanded, and receiveth a commandment with doubtful heart, and keepeth it with slothfulness, the same is damned" (Doc. and Cov. 58: 26-29).

Suppose you were to see a person blind to the perils ahead, approaching a precipice where you had reasonable assurance that, if not warned, he would meet with sudden destruction, would you not lift your voice with outstretched hand, if need be, to save him from such a tragedy? Many, for want of warning, are in the way of destruction of both body and soul. Because most men will not heed the warning when given, is no justification for our ceasing our efforts as long as some are constantly being rescued. Was it not even so in the days of the ancient prophets and of the primitive church? "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?" (Romans 10: 16).

It is gratifying to learn that, in the British mission, it is becoming popular for our local sisters to do house-to-house tracting. In some instances, they have distributed more tracts during a given length of time than have the missionaries from Zion in the same conference. This example is worthy to be followed throughout the European mission. Where this is done in the proper spirit and under proper direction, much good will result therefrom; and these laborers in the vineyard will, by our heavenly Father, be amply rewarded. It is said of President John R. Winder, who became First Counselor in the presidency of the Church, that, while in his native land, a scrap of paper chanced to blow across his path. He picked it up, and saw some reference to "Mormonism." This led to an investigation, resulting in his becoming a member of the Church. What may not that tract you gave away accomplish as a missionary? Let us remember the admonition of the Lord, "And let your preaching be the warning voice, every man to his neighbor, in mildness and in meekness" (Doc. and Cov. 38: 41). This may be accomplished by the distribution of tracts, the loaning of magazines and books, by gospel conversations, by good example and otherwise. In this, as in all other religious work, may the Lord bless our humble efforts.

GEORGE F. RICHARDS.

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## A CONVENTION OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS.

(*Concluded from page 599.*)

The speaker said he had not had a great deal of experience in missionary work. In passing through Chicago, he saw from the railroad car the rear of some tenement buildings, and he thought of the elders who had to go to such places with tracts. He had also noticed more respectable-looking districts. The elders are expected to explore all places and leave with the people a message of the restored gospel. It is a time of gleaning and hunting. It

is a time of fishing for souls. We often draw in our nets with poor results, and sometimes we come in contact with individuals who do not seem worth while saving. But we ought not to be discouraged. We must look at the total accomplished. We meet an honest soul occasionally, and such are worthy of our best efforts. The speaker mentioned the late President John R. Winder, who was led to a Latter-day Saint meeting by an advertisement on a scrap of paper flying about in the wind. What may not, he said, be accomplished by a tract in which the principles of the gospel are well defined! One lady had heard an elder preaching on the street, while she was sitting by her open window. She had been converted. No one knows what the Lord can do with the good seed sown by His servants. The speaker read from the Doctrine and Covenants, Sec. 60, and then said, we should not be cowards. We have no occasion to fear. To defend the truth is a noble calling. It is a glorious work. We should be studying and preparing ourselves, and then look for opportunities to speak to the people, as directed by the inspiration of the Lord. "I pray," he concluded, "the Lord to bless you. I expect to be very happy in my association with you."

After singing and prayer, recess was taken for lunch.

A testimony meeting, commencing at 4 p.m., proved a grand conclusion of this memorable gathering. At this meeting all present expressed their gratitude to the Lord for the many blessings they had enjoyed, and their determination to press on in the work. The presence of the Spirit of God was felt to a remarkable degree.

Between the meetings, refreshments were served by Sister Ida B. Smith, in the large dining-room, and this gave the elders a highly appreciated opportunity to exchange views and to become acquainted. The spirit of unity and brotherly love characterized the convention, and all felt, like the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration, "Master, it is good for us to be here."

J. M. S.

## RELIEF SOCIETY GATHERINGS.

### London Conference.

A Relief Society conference was held at "Deseret," 152 High Road, South Tottenham, London, N., August 17th, 1916, President James G. McKay conducting the meeting. After singing, and prayer by Sister Carrie Hughes, Sister Ida B. Smith expressed the wish to hear from the presidents and counselors of the respective Relief Society branches.

President Lillian Whitelock, of the Stratford branch, was first called upon. She gave a good report of the work being done. Second Counselor Sister Allan gave her testimony, and told how uplifting the meetings had been to her.

Sister Lillaine Olver rendered a solo entitled, "Peace and Rest."

Sister Stagg, president of the South London branch, said she was pleased to note the progress of the Relief Society since its reorganization. The secretary read a report of the visiting and work done by the sisters. First Counselor Sister Beeching, of the South London branch, said she was pleased to say that the sisters were doing their best to help on the work, and that all were working in union together.

Sister Lillian Hill, treasurer of the North London branch, gave a recitation, entitled, "A Venetian's Revenge."

President L. M. Pauley, of the North London branch, told of the work done for the soldiers and sailors at the commencement of the war, and of the work since then for the poor. They were working now for a bazaar, to be held on September 16th. She wished Sister Smith Godspeed on her voyage home to Zion. Second Counselor Sister Ellen Bradford said she would like to see more sisters attend the meetings, to help with the work.

Secretary Florence Olver read a report of the North London branch.

Sister Ida B. Smith said she enjoyed the associations of the Relief Society. She was thankful to the elders for the assistance rendered. She exhorted the sisters to examine themselves frequently, to see if they were living as they should, because a great responsibility rests upon them. She then spoke of the organization of the Relief Society by the Prophet Joseph Smith in the year 1842. There is now, she said, a membership of over forty-five thousand. She gave good counsel to the sisters, telling them not to talk about each other, but to be kind and sympathetic. She told them how the meetings might be conducted, and of the work being done by other societies, especially for the soldiers and the worthy poor, and of the visiting and tracting being done by the sisters.

President James G. McKay said he was glad to hear the remarks from the different speakers. He encouraged the sisters to take heart. God is mindful, he said, of our good deeds. We should pray and labor, that God may rule our lives.

Sister Lillaine Olver sang, "I know that my Redeemer lives." The closing hymn was, "God be with you till we meet again," and the benediction was pronounced by Sister Jane Musgrove.

FLORENCE OLVER, Secretary.

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MEN profess to prophesy. I will prophesy that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man are already commenced. One pestilence will desolate after another. We shall soon have war and bloodshed. The moon will be turned into blood. I testify of these things, and that the coming of the Son of Man is nigh, even at your doors.—JOSEPH SMITH.

## MINUTES OF BRISTOL CONFERENCE.

THE semi-annual meetings of the Bristol conference were held in Wolseley Hall, Wolseley Road, Eastville, Bristol, Sunday, September 10th, 1916. President George F. Richards of the European mission, President Peter E. Johnson, and the two traveling elders of the Bristol conference, and Brother William Day, president of the Cardiff branch, were present. Meetings were held at 10:30 a.m., and 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

The morning session commenced by singing, "We thank Thee, O God, for a prophet." Prayer was offered by Elder Chauncey H. Crittenden. Continued by singing, "Reverently and meekly now."

The sacrament was administered by Elders Henry E. Neal and Chauncey H. Crittenden.

President Peter E. Johnson extended a hearty welcome to all. He read from St. John 3: 14-19, and commented upon that text. In the course of his remarks, he said that God understands us, and knows what will advance us better than we do ourselves. God gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and broke the bands of death.

President William Day, of the Cardiff branch, reported the work done in that locality, and bore his testimony to the truth of the gospel.

Sister A. J. Caswill, president of the Relief Society, presented an account of the work done by the sisters.

President George F. Richards occupied the remaining time for speaking. He said that his oldest son, George F. Richards, Jr., and wife, received a call to a mission after his own appointment, and that they and their two children had accompanied him to England. He spoke of the excellent character of the Relief Society work being done in the British mission; referred to a meeting of the Liverpool branch Relief Society held 31st August, last, which he was privileged to attend, and said he thought he had never attended a better Relief Society meeting. He hoped all the Relief Societies in the mission would attain the same high standard. President Richards quoted James 1: 27, as follows: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world," and remarked that the work of the Relief Societies is of this character. Our sisters are undefiled, and their work is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, comfort those who mourn, assist in the burial of the dead, etc.

The meeting was brought to a close by the choir singing an anthem. Benediction by Brother William E. Caswill.

The afternoon session commenced at 2:30 by singing, "When shall we meet Thee?" Prayer by Elder Henry E. Neal. The choir then sang an anthem, "God reigneth."

The names of the general and local authorities of the Church were then presented, and the officers were unanimously sustained.

President Richards stated that it is desirable that the Bristol branch and its organizations be presided over by local brethren and sisters, and that the offices be well distributed, and no one person should hold too many positions. At this point the following officers were sustained, and, after the meeting, all were set apart by President Richards, assisted by other presiding brethren:

William E. Caswill, branch president; Henry E. Neal, first counselor; Walter J. Neal, second counselor; Nellie Wintle, branch clerk; William E. Caswill, chorister; Elsie Bryant, organist; Nellie Wintle, assistant organist. Relief Society—Mary Ann J. Caswill, president; Edith Neal, first counselor; Mary Bryant, second counselor; Edith Bryant, secretary and treasurer. Sunday school—Henry E. Neal, superintendent; Walter J. Neal, first assistant; Edith Bryant, second assistant; Hester Neal, secretary and treasurer; William E. Caswill, chorister; Elsie Bryant, organist; Nellie Wintle, assistant organist. Mutual Improvement Association—Henry E. Neal, superintendent; Mary Ann J. Caswill, first assistant; Ethel Jenkins, second assistant; Catherine Bryant, secretary and treasurer; Elsie Bryant, organist. Frederick George Neal was set apart as secretary of the branch Priesthood meetings.

Walter J. Neal was ordained to the office of priest.

After the branch officers had been sustained, President Richards addressed the meeting. He said that we, as Latter-day Saints, are expected to live the higher law of the gospel, the spirit of which is to return good for evil; if smitten on one cheek, turn the other. "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Such is the law our Savior lived, and we are commanded to walk in the light as He is in the light, with the promise that if we do so, we shall have fellowship one with another, and His blood will cleanse us from all sins. We should not bear false witness against our neighbor, neither should we be tale-bearers, but rather speak of the virtues of others. Here president Richards quoted the lines of the song, "Think gently of the erring one."

Brother William E. Caswill then bore his testimony, thanking our heavenly Father for the gospel message which had been brought to his door. He asked that the blessings of the Lord might rest upon all.

The meeting closed by singing, "Lift up your heads, ye scattered saints." Benediction by Elder John H. Wilding.

The evening session commenced at 6:30 by the choir singing, "Come, let us worship." Prayer by Brother William Day. Continued by singing, "Glorious things of thee are spoken."

Elder Chauncey H. Crittenden was the first speaker. He said that he felt that we were very much favored by having one of the

Apostles with us. We are a favored people through having the light of the gospel. He read from Isaiah 2: 2-4, and explained that passage. He also referred to the time when he was set apart in Salt Lake City, with fifty-four others, and they were told that if they were not clean, and if they did not keep the Word of Wisdom, they must not go another step toward the mission field.

Elder John H. Wilding was the next speaker. He said that the Latter-day Saints are a people chosen out of the world, constituting the scattered remnant of Israel. Just as literal as was the scattering, so the gathering would be.

Sister Ada Wintle sang a solo, entitled, "The Holy City."

President George F. Richards took the remaining time. He explained the personality of the Godhead, and the operations of the Holy Ghost, whose mission, in part, is to bear witness of the Father, and of the Son, and of the truth of all things—"No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (I. Cor. 12: 3). "There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32: 8). The Scriptures came by the Holy Ghost, and if we have that Spirit by which the Scriptures were given, we shall understand them. This accounts for the saints seeing the Scriptures in a different light after they have embraced the gospel. By obeying the principles and ordinances, they receive a fulfilment of the promises of Peter (Acts 2: 38): "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." By the Holy Ghost they are able to understand the things of God, while to the carnal mind these things are as foolishness. This accounts for the darkness which beclouds the minds of men, pertaining to spiritual things. They have not taken the course prescribed by which to secure the Holy Ghost. We should live in peace together. If the world does not love us, surely we should love one another. "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15: 19). At a world's convention of religions held in Chicago a few years ago, our representative was refused a hearing on the ground that we are not of them, thus proving that we are chosen out of the world, as were the disciples of the Master in the primitive church.

President Peter E. Johnson closed with a few appropriate remarks.

The choir sang the anthem, "Sweet Sabbath Eve."

Closed by singing the Doxology. Benediction by President George F. Richards.

JOHN H. WILDING, Clerk of Conference.

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Do well the little things now; so shall great things come to thee by and by asking to be done.

## CRAFTINESS OF THE TEMPTER.

"If I were to ask you to-day, my brethren and sisters, what you would take for your standing and your privileges as Latter-day Saints, is there anything that you could name? * * * There is nothing. You would say, if the wealth of the world were to be laid at your feet in exchange, you would spurn it as a thing of naught. But Satan does not tempt us in that style; he knows better. * * * If a man who was in the enjoyment of the Spirit of God one year ago had been told that yesterday, on the 7th of October, a trifling temptation would be presented to him of a certain character (and that at the time he would think contemptible), and he would yield to it, he would be astonished; he would scarcely believe it. 'What! will I barter the wealth that God has given me, the wealth of the gospel, the wealth of freedom which is contained in it! What! will I barter the joy, peace, and happiness which I now have for so contemptible a temptation as that? Will I do it? No; I will not.' Yet the year passes away, and the 7th of October comes to hand, the temptation is presented, and the man who thought himself so impregnable in the truth, and thought that he could not be tempted and seduced from it, falls a victim, and to what? to the wealth of the world? No; but to something that is so truly contemptible, mean, and low, that it is a matter of astonishment to everybody who knows him how he could be overcome by it."—George Q. Cannon.

## FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

**Arrivals.**—Elder Angus J. Cannon, Sister Miriam H. Cannon, and Elder Scott Taggart, who have been appointed to labor in the Swiss mission; also Elder William D. Lewis, who has been appointed to labor in the British mission, arrived September 10th, 1916, per s.s. *New York*.

**Appointment.**—Elder William D. Lewis, who arrived for the British mission, September 10th, 1916, has been appointed to labor in the Norwich conference.

**Baptisms.**—At 8 p.m., at the baths on Bath Lane, Leicester, a baptismal service was held, at which one soul was added to the fold of Christ, Elder Walton E. Bodily in charge, assisted by President John D. Hooper.

A baptismal service was held at West Hartlepool (Newcastle conference), August 22nd, 1916, when one soul was added to the fold of Christ. Elder Henry C. Phipps officiated, assisted by Elder Evan O. Perkins.

On Wednesday, September 13th, 1916, at the Baths, Station Street, Ashby, Derbyshire (Nottingham conference), a baptismal

service was held, at which three souls were added to the fold of Christ, President John D. Hooper in charge, and Elder Richard C. Wilkin officiating.

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**Successful Concert.**—On Saturday, September 2nd, 1916, the Relief Society of the Bradford branch (Leeds conference) held a successful concert for the benefit of those who suffered through the great explosion in Yorkshire. The sum of £2 13s. 4d. was realized, five shillings of which was donated by the Pudsey Relief Society.

BERTHA SHUTTLEWORTH, Secretary.

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**Interesting Services at Bradford.**—An interesting baptismal service was held at the Feversham Street Baths, Bradford (Leeds conference), September 9th, 1916, when thirteen souls were added to the Church, President Eben J. Robinson, Elders Nathan Groome, Joseph S. Nelson, and David A. Owen officiating. President Horace Cook, of the Halifax branch, took charge of the service, Second Counselor Simon Stead, of the Pudsey branch, led in the singing, and Dr. George H. Higgins, of the Bradford branch, gave a very interesting discourse on the necessity and mode of baptism. About two hundred people were in attendance. At six o'clock a confirmation and testimony meeting was held, which lasted until eight o'clock. Many good, humble testimonies were borne. At eight o'clock was held a Priesthood and officers' meeting. The reports of the different branches, and of the work done by the special missionaries, was very satisfactory, and showed much progress. A very good spirit pervaded all the meetings throughout the day, which caused our hearts to rejoice in being privileged to officiate in the work of the Lord.

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## DIED.

SUMMERS.—At Hull (Hull conference), August 14th, 1916, Frank Summers, the beloved son of Robert and Effie Summers, aged four years and ten months. Deceased was interred in Spring Bank West Cemetery, August 16th, 1916, the funeral services being conducted by Elders Peter M. Hixson, Nels C. Jorgensen, and Joseph A. Godfrey.

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